

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: WATERGATE CONFUSION

USIA FOR IEE, IBS, ICS, IPS

VIENNA FOR RPO

REF: VOA MONTHLY REPORT JULY-AUGUST 1974 (A-341)

1. POST STRUCK BY CONTINUING CONFUSION ABOUT WATERGATE AMONG SOVIET CITIZENS FROM MOST SOPHISTICATED LEVELS TO SIMPLEST. WHILE MAJORITY AT LEAST GIVE LIP SERVICE TO QUASI-OFFICIAL SOVIET DOCTRINE THAT OPPONENTS OF DETENTE ENGINEERED NIXON RESIGNATION, THEY FIND IT HARD TO GRASP AND DIGEST ESSENTIAL FACTS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PROCESS EVEN THOUGH MANY WE HAVE TALKED TO HAVE LISTENED TO VOA AND OTHER FOREIGN RADIOS.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ABOVE REACTION SURFACED FREQUENTLY ON CENTRAL ASIA TRIP BY P&C OFFICER OCT 9-14. AMONG OTHER REACTIONS PICKED UP BY P&C: AT LUNCHEON FOR KURT VONNEGUT LAST WEEK, MME. L.A. GVISHIANI, DAUGHTER OF PREMIER KOSYGIN AND DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LIBRARY ASKED PRIVATELY FOR "REAL" MEANING OF WATERGATE. DESPITE WIDE READING AND LISTENING ON SUBJECT, SHE EXPRESSED ESSENTIAL PUZZLEMENT. EARLIER, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED AND NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLEMICAL MFA SECRETARY GENERAL CHERNYAKOV, NOTING

HE LISTENED REGULARLY TO EVENING VOA RUSSIAN NEVERTHELESS
STATED HIS BELIEF IN OPPONENTS-OF-DETENTE THEORY. SIMILAR
VIEW EXPRESSED SEPARATELY BY USA MAGAZINE EDITOR
BEREZHKOV, A VOA ENGLISH BREAKFAST SHOW LISTENER.

3. POST RECOMMENDS AGENCY ELEMENTS ASSESS OUTPUT
ACCORDINGLY FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN USSR, WHERE
NIXON-BREZHNEV RELATIONSHIP WAS DETENTE KEYSTONE AND
KNOWLEDGE OF US SQUEEZED THROUGH NARROW FILTER. CONTINUING
WATERGATE TRIALS ADDS FRESHNESS TO CONCERN, BUT ALSO
OPPORTUNITY FOR BACKGROUNDING. EXCELLENT EXAMPLE WAS
VOA RUSSIAN REPORT CARRIED ON OCT 21 EARLY MORNING
NEWS. FOR FURTHER PREVIOUS EMBASSY COMMENT SEE
REFAIRGRAM.
STOESSEL

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